the β2-microglobulin gene. 1/10 aliquots each of the cDNA were used for amplification in a control reaction. The PCR was carried out under standard conditions at an annealing temperature of 60°C, 50 cycles, and in the presence of 0.2 mMol dNTP, 5 μMol PCR primers (Sequence ID no. 16 and 17) and 0.54 units of Expand Hifi polymerase in a volume of 30 μl. As shown in Figure 7, an amplification product was obtained from preamplified cDNA in 9 of 12 analyzed single cells, while the use of DNA that was preamplified not according to the invention did not result in any detectable amplification products.

B6 cont.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend Claims 1 and 4 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for the amplification of nucleic acid fragments from a sample, said method comprising first and second thermocyclic amplification reactions, wherein said first amplification reaction is carried out using completely randomized primers, said second amplification reaction is carried out using specific primers, and said first and second amplification reactions are carried out using the same mixture of at least two DNA polymerases, at least one of which possesses 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

B7

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the sample comprises a pool of cDNAs.

B8

Please add new Claims 5-9 as follows:

5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said mixture of DNA polymerases comprises Taq DNA polymerase and Pwo DNA polymerase.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a sample of cells.

B9

7. (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising treating said sample of cells with a protease, prior to the two thermocyclic amplification reactions.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said protease is proteinase K.

B9 cont.

9. (New) A method for amplifying a sample comprising nucleic acid comprising two thermocyclic amplification reactions, wherein a first amplification reaction is carried out using completely randomized primers and a second amplification reaction is carried out using specific primers, and in said first amplification reaction, the temperature at which primer extension is carried out is increased in at least some of the successive amplification cycles, and said first and second amplification reactions are carried out using the same mixture of at least two DNA polymerases, at least one of which possesses 3'-5' exonuclease activity.